

BLM NEVADA STATEWIDE RAC MEETING
November 2 & 3, 2006
Silver Legacy
Reno, Nevada

Thursday, November 2

List of Attendees

Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC Members

Bill Bennett
Jerry Hepworth
D. Craig Young
Tim Dufurrena
John Gebhardt
Patty Herzog
Vern Schulze
Brian Doyal
John Mudge
Ernie Paine
Jim Eidel
Laura Crane
William Roger Petersen

Mojave-Southern Great Basin RAC Members

Doug (Stretch) Baker
Joni Eastley
Julie Gleason
Ed Higbee
Gracian Uhalde
Stephen Mellington
Claire Toomey
John Hiatt
Skip Canfield
Steve Parker
Kenny Anderson

Northeastern Great Basin RAC Members

Sheri Eklund Brown
Greg Seymour
Vince Garcia
Dave Tattum
David Gaskin
Kevin Lee
Larry Barngrover
Jon Hutchings
Kirk Nicholes
Barry Perryman

Bureau of Land Management Staff

Ron Wenker	State Director, Nevada
Doran Sanchez	Chief, Office of Communications, Nevada State Office
Debra Kolkman	Writer/Editor, State RAC Coordinator, Nevada State Office
Bill Dunn	Fire Management Officer, Ely Field Office
Jack Tribble	Outdoor Recreation Planner, Ely Field Office
Don Hicks	Carson City Field Manager
Butch Hayes	Deputy State Fire Management Officer, Resource & Planning
Jerry Smith	Battle Mountain Field Manager
Bill Fisher	Tonopah Field Station Manager
Juan Palma	Las Vegas Field Manager
Meg Jensen	Deputy State Director, Natural Resources, Lands and Planning, Nevada State Office
Arlan Hiner	Assistant Field Manager, Renewable Resources, Winnemucca Field Office
Leo Drumm	OHV Rec Trails Coordinator, Nevada State Office
Bryant Smith	Carson City Associate Field Manager
Barbara Keleher	Outdoor Recreation Planner, Nevada State Office
Helen Hankins	Elko Field Manager
Jamie Thompson	Public Affairs Officer, Winnemucca Field Office
Mike Brown	Public Affairs Specialist, Elko Field Office
Hillierie Patton	Public Affairs Specialist, Las Vegas Field Office
Maxine Shane	Public Affairs Specialist, Nevada State Office
Chris Hanefeld	Public Affairs Specialist, Ely Field Office
Mark Struble	Public Affairs Specialist, Carson City Field Office
Nancy Thompson	Staff Assistant, Communications, Nevada State Office
Steffanie Trujillo	Management Assistant Records, Ely Field Office
Patti Heinbaugh	Administrative Assistant, Ely Field Office

U. S. Forest Service Staff

Ed Monnig	Supervisor, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Scott Lamoreux	Recreation and Trails Team Lead
Jose Noriega	Ranger, Santa Rosa Ranger District

Public

Bill Dart	Off-Road Business Association, California
Gene Kolkman	
Karen Boeger	
Susan Lisagor	United States Senator Reid's Office
Vinson Guthreau	Nevada Association of Counties
Terry Reed	Golden
Richard Hilton	Friends of Sand Mountain
Shaaron Netherton	Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Dave Pulliam	Nevada Department of Wildlife
Bryan Lamont	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Jim Linebaugh	Society for Range Management
Rex Cleary	Society for Range Management

A copy of each attachment is listed in the text of, or at the end of these minutes and is on file with the official copy of the minutes in the Nevada State Office of the BLM. Persons desiring to view attachments should contact Debra Kolkman at (775) 289-1946.

Welcome & Introductions - Doran Sanchez, BLM Nevada Chief of Communications, called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. Sanchez introduced himself to the members and told them he was looking forward to meeting and working with each of them.

In his **Introductory Remarks** Ron Wenker acknowledged Wednesday night's visit from Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne and told the RAC members he was looking forward to working with the Secretary. The Secretary seems to be well connected with Western issues that BLM faces. Wenker also had the opportunity to meet DOI Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Steve Allred who also understands well the issues of BLM.

Wenker thanked the RAC members for the work they have done. He told them that their advice is not only welcome but needed.

Overview of BLM Nevada

Wenker reminded the RAC that they had talked about many issues during 2006. The Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC provided input on issues such as the Pine Nut Mountain Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), the Carson City Field Office (CCFO) Energy RMP Amendment DEIS, the Winnemucca RMP/DEIS, Black Rock National Conservation Area (NCA) Implementation, and planning for the Water Canyon Recreation Area. There are some really challenging ongoing issues like the possible listing of the Sand Mountain Blue Butterfly. Wenker said he thinks BLM's direction will allow for the butterfly and the recreation. The RAC also discussed the Sand Mountain Business Plan and recreation fee enhancement funds, and provided advice on how to deal with government entities that are not signed up as cooperating agencies.

The Northeastern Great Basin RAC met four times in Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 to provide significant counsel and advice to BLM managers on a variety of resource management programs and projects. They also held a joint meeting with the Mojave-Southern RAC for a panel discussion on Rights-of-Way (ROW) applications for transfer of groundwater from northeastern Nevada to southern Nevada.

Wenker told the group that the Mojave Southern members had talked about a myriad of issues from the Ely RMP/EIS, Gold Butte, Ivanpah Airport EIS, Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) nominations, to the FY 2006 fire season.

BLM presents quite a few controversial items to the RACs each year. The advice the RAC provides means a lot to BLM.

Fiscal Year 2007 Priorities

New geothermal regulations – play a very potential role in our state. ~~25%~~ **Twenty-five percent** of the revenue paid to the federal government comes back to the counties.

- Front and center for FY 2007 is fire. Last year we unfortunately had a very active year, burning over 5 million acres. We're looking at good range land that was burned, especially in the Elko area. We're seeing changes in some of the weather patterns. Rehab and continued discussions of fuels issues ~~is~~ **are** very important especially outside the urban interface.
 - Pinyon & juniper.
 - Ways to provide biomass for new markets.
 - New ways to protect the areas that are still in very good condition.
- The RACs are very active in promoting healthy rangelands for sage-grouse. There will be new petitions for listing. BLM needs to collect what data it can to show what's working and what's not for all species as well as sage-grouse.
- Water transport proposals from Lincoln County and White Pine County to Las Vegas. RAC advice will be key in helping BLM work through processing the ROWs.
- Urban growth fosters recreation. BLM will be talking about forming the Recreation RACs for advice on where we charge fees. The advice you give BLM and the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) will be key for us.
- A recent clean-up south of Sun Valley brought in six dumpsters of trash. Household waste and other hazardous materials become a huge issue in Las Vegas on vacant lands. We are faced with hazmat cleanup on lands being prepared for sales.
- Recreation is front and center – OHV planning becomes very contentious. RACs will give advice on designations. BLM faces challenges on signing open roads. The next challenge after signing is to get users to stay on the roads. No entity will ever have the law enforcement available to totally enforce. We depend on users to help us enforce.

Next week Wenker is meeting with the State Leadership Team (SLT), looking at priorities for FY 2007. There is direction from the national office as well as activities in Nevada to consider.

Wenker told the group that he sees four main categories for BLM Nevada:

Land health

- *Wild horses and burros.* In FY 2007 Nevada will be at Appropriate Management Level (AML) on public lands, a significant accomplishment for the state. Our challenge will be to maintain it and look long-range at what we need to do for those animals, what type of management we need. Management will continue at a time when we will cross a budget threshold. Next year when we will have more animals in long-range holding than on the range. Animals in holding get fat, do well and live a lot longer. Should we be looking at selective removal, fertility control on the range?
- *Permit renewals.* Ten-year permits have to go through an evaluation before they can be re-issued. They take time. Congress gave BLM a revision to renew those expiring through FY 08 without doing the evaluations. We do have the obligation to look at the range and do the evaluations. The goal is to have all of the permits fully evaluated by FY 09. This is quite a workload for BLM and ranchers.

- *Weeds*. Wenker would like to see BLM expand its cooperation to breakup the non-natives.
- *Rehab plans*. There are 106 Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) plans in place in Nevada. Wildland urban interface is #1 but we have to look outside the urban interface to keep some of the large fires from occurring. BLM Nevada is starting discussions with the USFS in fuels projects. BLM Nevada is looking for 50% of our fuels projects to be cooperative and also look at biomass opportunities.

Urban growth

- In consultation with local governments BLM Nevada will determine how much land should be offered for sale. We sold \$8 million worth of land recently in Las Vegas. In another state that would be wonderful. In Las Vegas it's just pocket change. The planning target for the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 7 is \$60 million.
- We will be emphasizing the reduction of back log of land disposals.
- The national energy corridor will be completed this year.
- Water pipeline projects are front and center for us. Some planning projects will come to a close this year and some will be coming out in draft such as the Winnemucca Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Elko RMP is on its final path. The Carson City Field Office (CCFO) will finalize the Pine Nut Plan and the Alpine County Amendment.

Energy and Minerals Development

- BLM has done a very good job on appropriate planning. Two million acres were leased for oil and gas in FY 2006. There are no areas of big oil finds in Nevada, but looking for big finds continues.
- Monitoring wind speeds continues in an effort to look for appropriate wind energy areas. Wind energy power generation needs steady wind and close enough proximity to a power line transmission to get power into the grid.
- Locatable minerals program is robust in the near future.

Resource protection and serving communities

- Wildfire protection plans will continue. Wenker commented on the contribution and help of the Wildfire Support Group (WSG), a group of Winnemucca Field Office range permittees who cooperate with BLM in wildfire sighting and suppression.

The federal budget is a challenge to BLM. We are looking at level budgets in the future. We will still have to absorb cost of living raises. Nevada is positioning itself in a way that it can manage. Managers need to continue to pursue partnerships which will be key for BLM management.

BLM Nevada Program Outlook for FY 2007

Presentation by Meg Jensen, DSD, Resources, Lands, Planning

Jensen told the RAC that she echoed Wenker's appreciation to all of the members for being willing to help out.

Recap of Challenges in FY 2006 – major workloads for BLM

- Travel management inventory preparatory to doing route indexes. Ely is way out in front in inventory.
- Recreation – BLM Nevada has 6 million visitor days annually. Visitation is especially heavy at Red Rock NCA. ~~70% to 80%~~ **Seventy to eighty percent** of the visitors go to other parts of Nevada.
- Federal Lands ~~Management and Recreation~~ **Enhancement** Act. Manage to develop Recreation RACs.
- Planning – Ely, Winnemucca
- Wild Horse and Burro Act. BLM Nevada currently has 15,400 animals on the public lands. Appropriate Management Level (AML) is 15,500. AML has been set on 99 of the 102 Herd Management Areas (HMAs).
- Permit renewals – streamlining how we do them. BLM participated in range schools to help operators be more effective in their managing of the public lands.
 - Revision of Range handbook.
 - Template for NEPA.

BLM has been facing increasing public use of public lands and increasing scrutiny. Budget problems will continue into the foreseeable future.

Fire had an extraordinary season in 2006. Fire season started in January in Clark County and ended in November in Clark County. We burned 1.3 million acres. Many of the acres that burned were in the Mojave Desert. There has been a tremendous loss of critical habitat in the Mojave in the last two years.

Areas where the RACs can be most useful in FY 2007

- Balancing all the competing demands for uses of the public lands.
- Fire – planning efforts and the degree of rehab efforts. BLM is proposing ESR on over 9 million acres. ESR is done mainly in the winter months. BLM will be putting over 2 million pounds of seed on the ground in the next few months. There is an interagency seed collection effort.
- Planning – Ely Field Office planning effort is final, Winnemucca is in the draft stage of their RMP.
- Rec and travel planning
- There is some work to do in reaching AML for wild horses and burros. Two thousand animals are to be removed in FY 07. ~~80%~~ **Eighty percent** of Nevada's HMAs will be at or below AML. BLM is moving proactively into management of the HMAs.
- BLM is participating in sage-grouse conservation planning. Nevada has a number of **PMUs (What does PMU stand for?)** where planning has not been completed. BLM needs public participation in the planning efforts and needs to keep public interest high to help implement the projects on the ground.
- The Energy Corridor EIS is a national level project. BLM needs public review when the draft comes out. The EIS will set in motion how energy is moved around the state.

Vegetation Map

Jensen told the RAC that the vegetation map is a special project in BLM Nevada that staff has been working on for a year and a half. BLM is trying to establish veg management criteria for Nevada so we can focus efforts on projects most important to Nevada public lands. The map went through many drafts. The question is how we can work together to collaborate on the most important areas in the state. A portion of the money allocated to the project would look at focused treatment of some areas. The subject will be discussed at the SLT meeting on November 7 and 8. RAC input is welcome.

Jensen distributed a draft vegetation treatment prioritization criteria sheet to the RAC members (See attachment 1.). The draft is a concept of proposed criteria for prioritizing veg treatments. BLM Nevada field managers have not seen it yet.

Helen Hankins commented that the field managers weren't only looking at veg management in terms of fuel management, but also high value habitat to identify those areas that need protection.

Wenker acknowledged Jensen and the outstanding job she has done for BLM. Jensen is leaving BLM in another week to take the position of park supervisor for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Alaska, the largest park in the Park Service system.

Office of Fire and Aviation

Presentation by Butch Hayes, Deputy State FMO, Resources and Planning

Fire Management Challenges and the FY 2006 Fire Season

- In FY 2006 Nevada burned the second most acres of any state in the U. S. Texas had the most acres burned. The 2006 fire season is not over. There was a fire south of Austin October 31. It was a military start.
- There were 31,612 resource orders across the U.S. in 2006.
- Two people burned over at the New York fire. They are doing well in recovery.
- 3 engine rollovers in Nevada.
- 9 million acres on average burned yearly in Nevada. We exceeded that in FY 2006.
- 62 management incident teams were activated in Nevada.
- Partnerships were emphasized at the 2006 Nevada Fire Closeout Meeting. There was a significant brainstorming session among the agencies on how to keep lands safe from fire. Nevada will try to mimic the successes in Oregon and Colorado.

2006 Fire Program other than Suppression

- Nevada community wildfire risk assessment contract completed and administered by the Nevada Wildfire Fire Safe Council. Focus was mostly on urban interface issues. BLM let a second landscape risk assessment contract for the lands outside the urban interface areas. Nevada will be the first state to have statewide coverage.
- BLM distributed 100,000 flyers on controlling cheat grass around private houses.

- Money was available to help train rural fire department members through the training center in Elko.
- In the past five years BLM distributed \$4,500,000 in funds to Native American firefighting efforts.
- In 2006 BLM focused on Ely wildfire use projects. Decisions are carefully made and monitored on where to let wildfire burn.
- There is continuing development of the partnership ready-reserve fund.
- BLM is cooperating with UNR cooperative extension service for the Living with Fire Program. Flyers were distributed to most community newspapers during the summer.
- There is a new method for budget justification. The on-going process includes all Interior bureaus and the USFS.
- A GIS spatial data planning tool has been developed with the resource development department to look at the veg treatment areas that are included in the vegetation map.

Minerals Management

Presentation by Rich Hoops, Fluid Mineral/Geothermal Program Lead

Six minerals programs in Nevada are leading the national programs. The Washington Office has forwarded a broad operational and policy development workload. Energy and the energy economy are driving BLM workload. BLM can only accomplish these workloads with cooperation from the field offices and the energy industries.

General Mining Objectives

- Making the permitting process more efficient
- Not duplicating the state program
- Consistency and cooperation with all partners
- Confirming Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs).
- Protection of the environment is paramount.

Nevada has the largest mining program in BLM – over 300 Plans of Operation (PoOs) and over 300 plans of intent in all the field offices combined. 14 mineral commodities are being produced on public lands in Nevada. Nevada is the third largest producer of gold in the world.

Statistics from two years ago

- Net proceeds from reporting of all revenues on public lands in Nevada was \$56 million per year.
- Nevada had the greatest increase in the number of claims. 167,000 claims today.

Mineral Materials

- BLM is trying to meet the needs of urban areas, counties and cities in the state. Other areas are growing as well.
- In 2006 sales in Nevada were 60% of the total for BLM.
- 400 use authorizations were issued throughout the year.
- 100 free use permits were issued to the counties.

Abandoned Mines Program

- Emphasis on those mines that are near public use areas.
- Nevada BLM is leading the bureau with 518 sites inventoried in past year.
- 118 sites backfilled, 40% of all the sites in BLM which includes all six field offices and the Pyramid Lake Reservation.

- Lot of work being done in preparation for backfills including cultural and bat surveys.

Oil & Gas

- 4 competitive sales per year. BLM offers lands as expeditiously as possible while staying within environmental issues. The President's energy policy and energy bill mandates getting work done as quickly as possible.
- 4.3 million acres were in lease in 2006.
- 1.3 million acres offered for sale in 2006, as many acres as in Wyoming and New Mexico combined.
- Production 450,000 barrels per year, generally slow decrease in yearly production.

Geothermal

- Geothermal in Nevada is very complicated. The economic risk factor in drilling is very high.
- Drilling and power plant contracts are two of the priorities of the SLT.
- A partnership with the state department of minerals is critical.
- Inspections.
- Working with permitting with the counties.

FY 2006 Accomplishments

- Getting pending lease applications completed. Hoops thanked the field managers for their leadership on this issue. There are currently 316 leases in Nevada, three-quarters of all the federal lands in the nation. Two new state office positions have been created in the WFO for handling permitting and NEPA. Interviews will take place in the next few weeks.
- Implementing the energy bill. The intent of Congress is to focus geothermal activity on the public interest in getting leasing and production. This program is evolving into a more operational component.
- Unitization authorities have been given to BLM and authorities for pushing industry to get into production.
- Now the sale process will mirror the oil and gas process. Industry will nominate lands for offer. Some oriented toward other states. This program should be implemented in BLM by the end of the year.
- Royalties and rentals from the geothermal leases in the state – counties will get 25%. The other major change is that 25% will go to the Department of the Interior account to help the agencies implement the geothermal program instead of going into the federal general fund.
- 9 power plants are operating on federal land in Nevada.
- BLM is looking at a lot more work on geothermal with the tribes.
- In the hazmat program BLM is looking at reclamation and remediation. The Yerington Mine is one of the primary aspects of the program.

John Hilton (I believe this should be John Hiatt) asked how much of the budget is used for pro-active fire protection. Hayes answered \$5 million. This figure has probably dropped about

20% over the past few years. BLM helps the Fire Safe Council with parades, programs for the schools and assisting communities in developing their own fire plans.

A member of the RAC asked what the chances are of getting veg proposals done. Hayes answered that nationally it is looking pretty good to get more funding because Nevada has performed pretty well in the past few years. The cost per treatment acre skyrockets near towns. BLM has made significant progress in the fuels projects in Nevada. One of the problems is getting enough funding to maintain project areas.

Jim Eidel asked what the efforts are in the Winnemucca district to graze cheat grass early. Hayes answered that it is hard to get enough cattle out there to make a significant difference. This is a viable option in fuels treatments. It is intensive cattle management.

Vince Garcia commented that some of the concerns in the Elko area are additional fire attack tactics, the common sense approach. Wenker answered that one of the concerns at local close-outs was why BLM isn't out there in the dark when the fire starts happen. This is a safety issue. BLM doesn't have the local resources to fight fires. BLM has to bring outside resources in and it is hard to deploy them in unknown territory at night. The Wildfire Support Group (WFG) in the Winnemucca district has helped a lot. BLM is always open to new suppression tactics as long as they're safe.

John Mudge asked how much money has been accumulated from SNPLMA and what the plans are for using it for land acquisitions. Jensen answered that over \$2 billion has accumulated. Over half of that money is for parks, trails and natural areas in Clark County. A small part of the pie has gone to land acquisitions. BLM is focusing on completion of acquisitions that have already been approved. BLM is only anticipating \$60 million for Round 7. There are 15 land acquisitions involved.

Laura Crane asked what happens to money earmarked for acquisitions when the seller is no longer willing. Juan Palma answered that the funds never leave the account. When the project is completed the money is allocated. If the project is not completed the money is reallocated for future land acquisitions. Wenker answered that future projects go through Secretarial approval.

John Hiatt asked if there is a program to address future exotics. Jensen answered that BLM is starting to see a challenge with Sierra mustard into public lands in southern Nevada.

Dave Tattum asked if there are any requirements for drilling rigs to be cleaned before they come into Nevada so they don't bring in more exotics. Hoops answered that drillers don't sign up for wells in a specific area. The regulations state that equipment has to be properly hosed down in an appropriate manner, a standard condition for all permits issued.

John Hiatt asked what a long-term strategy is to supply seed that will be required in the future. Jensen answered that BLM got a grant from Joint Fire Sciences for native seed. The project pioneered contracting with growers to grow scarce, hard to purchase seed. The big challenge is on Mojave plant materials. BLM California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona are cooperating. All have lands in the Mojave Desert. The question is how do we figure out what native seed is available and what type of seed we want?

Jim Eidel asked what effort there has been to get the public to clean their vehicles so exotic seed is not spread. Jensen answered that there has been a process to educate the public. There are always opportunities to do more. She told the RAC she thinks funding constraints are hampering the state of Nevada getting the word out.

Jon Hutchings asked where the whole process of grazing permit renewals is heading. Since our last discussions what has progressed internally and what is the program for success? Jensen answered that the RAC can help in that area. The more BLM can have grievances handled up front the faster the projects get done and the less litigation. Two hundred permits need to be completed in FY 07 to stay on target for '09. Jon asked where the mandate is coming from in BLM, that the likelihood isn't the best for getting the numbers accomplished. We should look toward doing the best job. Wenker answered that in the 10 years he worked at the Winnemucca Field Office it was a high priority. We have been at this process for some time; it isn't new. What caused the shift was a lawsuit in Utah that caused BLM to go back and reevaluate that particular permit. It caused BLM to put more emphasis on when the permits are renewed and on the evaluations. All evaluations now need to be done before BLM issues the permit renewal. BLM was given the authority to renew the permits through 2008 without doing a full evaluation. The rest of the story is that BLM has promised Congress that we will get all those permits renewed by 2009. I have given direction to our managers to look at every opportunity for meeting our obligation, looking at agreements in some cases and full evaluations in others.

Hutchings asked if BLM is suggesting a mechanism where the RAC members can get involved in the issue a little more. Jensen answered that some field managers are looking for a more diverse counsel from some of the RACs. Jerry Smith commented that BLM is looking for the RAC to facilitate agreements with the permittees and also involve some consensus with the environmental groups to avoid lawsuits.

Hutchings commented that over the years Eureka County has made an effort to get more involved in the mine decision making process. The permitting process seems to be less and less effective as it goes on. What changes have occurred to streamline the effort? Jerry Smith answered that BLM has developed a standardized project tracking format to find out how long it takes to do each part of the process and to better track any slippage that occurs. The Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP), the industry and BLM cooperated in developing this matrix. It was tested with the Cortez Hills Mine. We need more of the cooperating agency and EPA involvement and the data up front.

Gracian Uhalde commented that as far as he was concerned the Animal Unit Months (AUMs) have been paid for. The IRS has collected their part. He extended his thanks to the people who are working on the renewal permitting.

Brian Doyle asked how BLM gets volunteers more involved. Jensen answered that BLM has a very active program in each field office and that he could contact each of them for more information. Debra Kolkman told him that each year for about the past five years BLM has logged about 1 million volunteer hours per year. One of the biggest events is National Public Lands Day (NPLD) which occurs each September when volunteers are invited to participate in various BLM field projects across the country. There are ongoing year round programs. Red Rock and Black Rock National Conservation Areas have very active programs. Volunteers can apply on the web to the appropriate field office.

BLM/Forest Service Overview of Travel Management Status of Route Inventory

Presentation by Scott Lamoreux, Recreation and Trails Team Lead, USFS

Travel management on Forest system lands in Nevada covers 6.3 million acres. It is part of the national policy formalized in 2004 which states in part that cross-country travel will become the exception rather than the rule. Decisions will be made locally. In 2005 the USFS issued regulations that each Forest should formally issue a motor vehicle use map showing the system of designated routes. Once the map was officially issued and distributed, cross country travel would be prohibited.

The USFS is not starting from scratch. There are existing trails and roads, 6,000 miles in the system now including 2,000 miles of trails. The Forest must balance the value of existing roads versus the damage to resources. Remote digital aerial photos were used to get the basic map, along with various degrees of field surveys. The FS presented the maps to the public and received feedback. They considered what's out there and what routes are important to add to the system. Proposals are being developed, district by district with local input. Spring Mountains National Recreation Area is ahead for mapping. The Forest has completed a NEPA decision on this issue. Staff is also creating its motor vehicle use map. The due date for the Santa Rosa Ranger District map is 2008. Other districts have due dates of 2009. The FS doesn't expect perfection the first time out. Regulations allow for corrections to the system. The public is offered ongoing opportunities to participate in the process.

Presentation by Leo Drumm, OHV/Rec Trails Coordinator, BLM

BLM will probably end up with the same product as the USFS. BLM will move from general limited to general existing routes. General criteria will be set up in land use plans. A very simple process will be given to the FS. Then travel management areas will be selected. BLM will be moving from mostly recreation (OHV) management to travel management (all the travel needs on public lands). This will involve all BLM disciplines. Staff is just starting on the travel inventory. The inventory will be digitally transferred to maps. Then staff will do ground-truthing. This will provide base-line data. Unlike the FS BLM does not have many designated trails. We need to ask the question do we have the roads and trails we need.

Greg Seymour asked how much cooperation there will be with the Nevada Wilderness Association. Lamoreux answered that the FS has used various contributors including OHV groups and wilderness groups but they are not making travel management plans in conjunction with RMPs. Instead they are involved in revising the Forest Plan. They will be coordinating travel management with the Plan.

Jim Eidel commented that he is member of the Great Basin Bird Observatory. Members want to make sure the FS and BLM are looking at habitat fragmentation. Birds are very mobile, even sage-grouse. Sage-grouse are very affected by roads. So are desert tortoises and deer. Various animals have various abilities to transport through various areas. Eidel asked that the Forest Service and BLM look at species in the NDOW action plan prioritized for Nevada and look at

fragmentation with those species. Drumm answered that certainly wildlife will play a large part in BLM's plans.

John Hiatt asked how BLM and the FS propose to get a handle on things in a timeframe more commensurate with protecting the wildlife. Lamoreux answered where problems are anticipated the FS can do emergency closure. We have to follow the year after with NEPA analysis.

Drumm answered we will always be reacting to new demands on public lands.

Juan Palma distributed a follow-up to SNPLMA questions. (See attachment 2, table figures on pages 1 and 2 – "What happens to the money.")

Recreation Panel

Each panel member gave a 5-10 minute talk, "With increasing recreation use on public lands, how can we all help BLM manage the use and resources?"

Presentation by Brian Lamont, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

The mission of the Foundation is to ensure the welfare of elk and their habitat. The Foundation has a great relationship with its partners in Nevada. Staff is currently working on an MOU with agencies in the state and would like to see one or two meetings a year on elk management.

There are many elk plans in Nevada that the Foundation hopes will be followed more closely.

There are some monitoring issues. Other issues and priorities include

- Funding aspen projects.
- Working with the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition.
- Getting more involved working with private land owners.
- Supporting multiple use and doing it's best for wildlife habitat.
- Restoring winter habitat in the burned areas.
- Continuing successful acquisitions in Nevada.

Sheri Eckland Brown asked that if the Foundation will keep acquiring land or turning it over to Nevada. Lamont answered the lands they have acquired have been turned over to NDOW.

Brown asked if the Foundation wants to be a part of pooling of resources to work on restoration of burned areas. Lamont answered that the Foundation would definitely like to be a part of that.

Karen Boeger commented that the Foundation should play a key role in the travel management planning area. She asked if that is a direction the national organization is planning to go.

Lamont answered the Foundation can play a part in that. They have tried to stay away from hot button issues and concentrate on habitat issues. They have funded a project in White Pine County.

Helen Hankins commented that one of the dilemmas involved in designating routes for travel is the issue of game retrieval. Boeger asked if the Foundation has any perspective from other states. Lamont answered that he couldn't give any examples of where it was resolved. The Foundation has a lot of different types of hunters in their organization. It will happen through education.

Vern Schulze commented that the issue of elk self introducing to new areas came up at one of the recent RAC meetings. What is the answer? Lamont answered that the Foundation would like to

work with private land owners to resolve that issue. Elk are expanding in Nevada. It is not the Foundation's job to manage the elk.

Patti Herzog asked how much money the Foundation has put into land conservation in Nevada. Lamont answered that the Foundation is basically a volunteer organization. They have put about \$11 million on the ground in Nevada.

Presentation by Dave Pulliam, Chief of the Habitat Division, NDOW

Wildlife is an important resource in Nevada. The 2001 report from the Department of the Interior said that nearly \$1million had been expended in Nevada in resource recreation. The condition of Nevada wildlife is pretty imperiled due to human needs, all legitimate uses. Wildfires and cheat grass have lost us huge acres of wildlife habitat. The trend to see petitions for listing of species will only continue. It is a sign of the failure on NDOW's part to maintain a viable system. NDOW recognizes OHVs as a legitimate use and demand on public land, individual, hunter and competitive use. The Department is committed to working with public agencies in permit processing. They need to be in the very early process of scoping. NDOW recognizes the need to work together at the beginning of the process to avoid conflicts.

Leo Drumm commented that BLM has a daunting task in Nevada in managing 48 million acres. BLM has been the leader in disbursed activities since the beginning. BLM manages settings for activities not the activities themselves. Hunting is recreation. We are also managing OHV activities. Motorized and non-motorized recreationists are after the same things, just seeking it differently. Animals, people and vehicles are all making an impact on the public lands.

Presentation by Shaaron Netherton, Executive Director, Friends of Nevada Wilderness

We are incredibly fortunate in Nevada in having so many public lands. We have a lot of opportunities but we also have a lot of management issues. The increase in population will have an impact on the quality of life in Nevada. There is a lot of room for everyone to respectfully do any recreation outside that they want. By and large most people are pretty committed to Nevada values. I am concerned about the incredible strains that growth particularly in Las Vegas has on our habitats. Working together is one way all the different groups can positively impact the land. Friends of Nevada Wilderness

- Works with the Nevada Congressional delegation.
- Puts a lot of emphasis on stewardship of the land.
- Wants to get members out on the land hoping that they will work to restore wilderness.
- Had 17 restoration projects this year.
- Have tried to engage a lot of different groups of people to monitor.
- Partnered with NDOW to maintain guzzlers.
- Have many volunteer trips to do restoration in wilderness areas.
- Publish a wildlife calendar every year to introduce people to the beautiful wildlife in Nevada.

Presentation by Bill Dart, Off-Road Business Association, California

Our organization is a national industry organization that covers four-wheel drives to ATVs, with a political arm in **Washington**, DC. OHV is the fastest growing recreational activity on public

lands. The economic impacts of this sport are huge. 150 companies build sand buggies in California and Nevada. People enjoy this activity year round.

There is a new aspect called the UTV, a side-by-side vehicle. There is a toy box trailer now with a large back door to role in an ATV. The baby boom generation, many of whom are retiring now, enjoys ATVs. Tourism has become a big factor for OHVs as has hunting and fishing. In many towns business licenses tripled in the past few years due to tourism. The organization however does not support off-road game retrieval.

There is room for improvement in agency management particularly in urban interface areas. BLM needs to step up its management. The organization supports the limited use designations but thinks it is better to stick with the existing routes. There are a few programs that support OHV projects. Partnerships are a big part of the OHV world. The organization partners with Friends of Pine Mountain, Friends of Hungry Valley, Friends of Sand Mountain and many other users groups. A whole new group of people become supporters of preserving of public lands through use of OHVs.

Presentation by Richard Hilton, Nevada OHV Recreation Representative and Board Member Friends of Sand Mountain

OHV seems to be the major contentious topic in management of public lands. Everything comes down to one point – keeping places open for OHV riders to ride and keeping the integrity of the lands. With increased use of OHVs and decreasing places users can ride, riding areas become more crowded and new areas are opened up. This will also have the effect of closing some people out of the sport. 95% of the Black Rock area [the Black Rock National Conservation Area is limited to designated roads only except for the playa] was closed when the NCA was established. Maybe establishing more intensive use areas with trash pick-up and toilet facilities would help. OHVers need more than one route. While one route may be faster the other may be more scenic. With more population it is getting harder and harder for young people to ride near their houses. We could all work together to make a plan that everyone can live with but we don't want to be closed out of the process.

Vern Schulze asked how the panel members felt about licensing and using some of the funds to support management. Bill Dart answered absolutely. Most states have a gas tax but that is not constitutionally possible in Nevada.

Sheri Ecklund Brown asked if State Senate Bill 400 is going to be refined in the next session. Bill Dart answered that it is already in place but did not establish funding. There is no penalty for not having a permit. Brown asked if that will allow vehicles to be insured. Dart answered that they can be insured right now but there is no registration program for the vehicles in Nevada. Brown asked how many roads have been designated and what the liability is with that. Dart answered that some roads have been designated. But there is no requirement that vehicles be insured.

Stretch Baker commented we can find places for all the activities that people want in Nevada. The rub for OHV people is that BLM gets about three cents per acre to manage those areas. How do we get funding for the out-of-state users that would go to management of these lands? Richard Hilton answered that Sand Mountain had fees imposed last year. 95% of the users of

Sand Mountain are from California. We think the one-hour pass for \$40 seems to be exorbitant but overall I think most people have decided they can live with the fees. Bill Dart answered that his organization is going to see if they can get appropriated dollars but the budget right now is being spent on other things. They would like to see that change.

Jim Eidel asked Bill Dart why BLM doesn't go to the producers of the vehicles to get funding. Dart answered there is a lot of internal debate about that. There is a program called "Tread Lightly" but unfortunately the program people don't talk to the advertisers. Toyota is the first group he is aware of that has joined the Off-Road Business Association.

Brian Doyle asked if there is a mid-way for wilderness areas that everyone can get on board concerning the closure of routes and what should be left open. Shaaron Netherton commented that it seems to some people that they are initially shut out of these areas but the boundary roads are generally still open and there are roads called cherry stems that go into the areas and dead end and sometimes have parking areas. Wilderness areas are not as closed up as some people think. Leo Drumm commented that wilderness areas are non-mechanized areas. That means not even mountain bikes.

Vince Garcia commented when we have drought years the wildlife don't flourish and the wildlife don't have the forage. Then in other years the cattle aren't eating enough of the forage. We all need to be supporting each other and playing on the same page to manage things well.

A member asked if it is the law that someone can't grow things in a wildlife refuge area. Dave Pulliam answered that he wasn't sure about other wildlife. There are federal laws with regard to baiting water fowl but none of those prohibit normal farming activities of certain crops. It's probably more choice of the federal agency than federal law to grow or not grow crops on refuges.

A member of the RAC asked what is being done with the \$3 paid per deer tag to control predators. Dave Pulliam answered that there are some patches where there are high concentrations of wildlife which attracts predators. Some of our sage-grouse activities have been to implement raven control and then monitor that success. Some money has been spent on specific projects.

A RAC member asked if there is money taken in from some of the races to mitigate tearing up the roads. Drumm answered that it is usually part of the stipulations of any race that the promoters rehab the routes they use. Sometimes it is a matter of waiting until there is some moisture.

John Hiatt asked how we deal with vehicles in the future that cover more ground and are higher powered. Bill Dart answered that the vast majority of Nevada is multiple use land. As far as the speeds the goal for recreation folks is not how fast you go. We would prefer a slower, rougher route. Richard Hilton answered that at the high intensity areas like Sand Mountain all the vehicles are concentrated in a small area. In the desert the riding is more dispersed.

Wenker commented BLM critics accuse us of not getting our travel plans in place fast enough. How should we prioritize getting the job done? Richard Hilton answered that Sand Mountain is a high intensity area. High intensity areas are going to get the most damage. I think BLM

should concentrate on these areas first. Dart commented that BLM should concentrate on the urban interface areas and then on the water source areas and not try to inventory every route out there.

Gene Kolkman asked if Nevada has data on rural pioneer trails. ~~John~~ **Jack** Tribble answered that hot spots might be perceived differently by different people in different parts of the state. Kolkman commented that some of the most important areas are some of the smallest areas. They seem to attract a lot of use. Nevada needs to deal with the issue more broadly than in just large use areas. Drumm commented that is why BLM needs public participation in our planning process.

Barry Perryman commented that the 800 pound gorilla in the room is BLM law enforcement. What can you guys do that might help the RACs help the public in the enforcement area? Richard Hilton commented that law enforcement was a big part of the discussion of the conservation plan for the blue butterfly at Sand Mountain. BLM does put in enforcement there during high use periods. Dart commented that there is increasing peer pressure on violators. We think it is our responsibility to discourage the bad behavior. There will never be enough BLM rangers to patrol all of the areas.

Claire Toomey commented that it would be nice if all the people out there were as polite as the panel. When she's riding her horse on the riding trails and she sees OHV people and tells them there are trails specifically for them they say "but your trails are so much nicer."

Sheri Eckland Brown asked if the Department of the Interior has introduced any regulations for open game retrieval. Drumm answered that he couldn't see a wide open classification for game retrieval. All uses can have a negative effect at some time. Partnerships are really important. That is the value of this discussion.

Karen Boeger commented that peer enforcement can go a long way toward real enforcement. The only way she can see to enforce that is a license plate with a visible hot number. She asked if the Off-Road organization supports that. Dart answered that he thought it was a good idea. Our organization would support that. Boeger commented that there was a question of where we go with travel planning. The RMP process is slow at best. We are about 20 years behind the curve in designating OHV routes already. Will BLM take the initiative to pull the designations out of the plan use bills ASAP? Drumm answered that the designations have to go through the land use planning process through a plan amendment, a very long process in and of itself for even a small area such as the Pine Nuts. Congress will probably not come up with money for that. Travel management is a top priority bureau-wide. Boeger asked if there is a consistent policy in BLM **Nevada BLM** to deal with renegade routes. Drumm answered that in order for any route to become designated it has to go through NEPA. That is bureau-wide. BLM can't take any action against the routes that have been created out there if they are in an open area. That is how the land use plan has been created. BLM has not done what it needs to do to say there is resource damage [caused] by driving cross-country.

Patti Herzog asked if we see private ATV parks as a solution in Nevada. Dart answered that he thought when an area has so many open areas that is not a solution. People in the West are not generally looking for an enclosed park experience. Dave Pulliam commented maybe

reclamation in abandoned mine lands is an opportunity to provide for recreational OHV use or even extreme events.

Recreation Resource Advisory Council

Overview

Wenker reminded RAC members that they are all chartered by the Secretary of the Interior to give counsel on a whole host of subjects. The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) mandates BLM to have a board to consult with when looking at a recreation area where fees will be charged. Nevada BLM and the USFS have asked that ~~each the Nevada~~ RACs form one subcommittee as a Recreation **Subcommittee** ~~RAC (Rec RAC)~~. There are areas like Sand Mountain that are used intensively and from his perspective need to charge fees to manage the areas. In such areas as Red Rock it takes a tremendous amount of presence to manage the various activities that take place.

Ed Monnig will be the federal official for the Rec RACs. **–Nancy-Ed cannot be the federal official for the recreation subcommittee.** He told the RAC members that the FS faces challenges very similar to the challenges faced by BLM. We are looking for alternative ways to keep the facilities we already have properly maintained. All of the recreation facilities on the Humboldt-Toiyabe were ranked last year as to how they can be maintained. The question is should we charge fees for areas that have a lot of facilities. The other challenge is the prospect of building new facilities in the Las Vegas area. The ~~Rec RACs~~ **Recreation Subcommittee** ~~are~~ **will give the FS** a unique opportunity to combine forces with BLM.

Presentation by Barbara Keleher and Scott Lamoreux (See attachment 3.)

- There are 600 million recreation visitors to the federal public lands nationally each year.
- Both agencies have stated that recreation is one of their top priorities.
- At last count BLM had a list of over 80 recreation activities.
- Recreation is in the top 20 uses for the 116 national forests in the country.
- BLM has the Red Rock NCA, the Black Rock NCA and Sloan Canyon NCA as well as the largest Special Use Permit (SRP) event in BLM – Burning Man.

The REA was signed in December 2004. It replaces the recreation fee demonstration program. For the general public the transition is fairly seamless. One of the differences is that the Act authorized the USFS and BLM to organize Recreation RACs to give advice on fee areas and to ensure public involvement in the fee process.

Standard amenity fees are basically day-use fees. Requirements to charge a standard amenity fee are a permanent toilet, a permanent trash receptacle, a picnic table, parking, security and an interpretive sign. The exceptions are NCAs which may not have these amenities.

Expanded amenity fees mostly apply to overnight camping areas. Some specific services are RV hookups, transportation services or reservation services.

Individual SRPs apply to use for areas such as ATVing at Sand Mountain, Nevada's only SRP area. CCFO raised over \$300,000 in fees in FY 2006 but they didn't even break even in cost of services.

The FS and BLM cannot charge entrance fees for NCAs, National Volcanic Monuments and destination visitor centers; standard amenity fees for people under age 16; activities such as parking along roads or trails with no facilities, stopping at overlooks or scenic pullouts or pass-through travel.

REA does allow the agencies to keep the fees they generate in the areas they are collected. BLM collected \$1.59 million in FY 2005. The USFS collected \$38,000. Many FS areas were under concession contracts.

The Act merges the national pass program into one pass, the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass.

REA does affect public involvement in fee sites through ~~the RAC program~~ **the Recreation Subcommittee's involvement**. This aspect of the Act cannot be stressed enough.

RACs will make recommendations regarding

- Implementing or eliminating standard or expanded amenity fees & individual special recreation (special use) permit fees
- Expanding or limiting the recreational fee program
- Implementing fee level changes

Not directly under official REC RAC recommendations

- USFS concession program
- SRPs—**what does SRP stand for?**
- Special events such as Burning Man
- Outfitter/guides

The level of support will be identified in the form of proposals to the subcommittee.

Basic recommendations for the subcommittee are that it be composed of 7-13 members in as broad areas as possible including motorized recreation, non-motorized recreation, hunting and fishing, motorized outfitters and guides, non-motorized outfitters and guides, local environmental groups, state and local government, Indian tribes and tourism industry or state tourism official.

Jerry Hepworth asked when the charters for the RACs will be renewed allowing volunteers to be reimbursed. Keleher answered by the end of the year. **(Kolkman has since been informed that the Charter renewal process will not address reimbursement for volunteers. That will have to be done through the Federal Advisory Committee Act.)**

Sheri Ecklund Brown asked where most of the Rec RAC meetings will be held. Keleher answered that there will be only one meeting per year probably closest to the area where the majority of the proposals are.

2 issues may come before the subcommittee in FY 2007

- The BLM Elko Field Office is looking at increasing some of its fees.
- USFS may be looking at the Spring Mountains near Las Vegas and other areas.

Kenny Anderson asked if the Southern Paiutes should have to pay for use of areas where they believe they were created. We don't have to pay to get into the Grand Canyon now. If we camp we have to pay. Keleher thanked him for his comment and told him it was something to think about.

A member asked if this is a ratification of a certain fee level or an opening to discussing anything concerned with fees. Lamoreux answered that REA doesn't prohibit discussion outside the REA role.

Lamoreux told the group that the FS would go through some internal review of a proposal before it was presented to the Rec RAC. Once the proposal is discussed by the Rec RAC the appropriate RAC would be advised of the outcome of the discussion. The RAC would then make their recommendation. If the FS wanted to continue to pursue a recommendation to not apply or raise a fee, the Secretary of Agriculture would have to be consulted concerning permission for them to go against the recommendation of the RAC.

John Hiatt asked if it is appropriate to talk to the public about the proposals. Wenker answered that each RAC member has been appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to provide a certain role. The subcommittee is a subset of the RACs. Any recommendation of fees or a broader action would come under the purview of the RAC. In other states such as California they have gone to a special council that is just for fees because of the amount of proposals. We don't have that many proposals in Nevada. Each member of the RACs has a set of skills and knowledge that goes along with the appointment. Getting comments from the part of the public that the members represent is part of the appointment.

Nominees to the ~~Rec RAC~~ Recreation Subcommittee

Claire Toomey

Sharlet Berentsen (from Winnemucca, not a RAC member)

Skip Canfield

John Hiatt

Bryan Doyle

Dave Tatum

Julie Von Tobel Gleason

Wenker reminded the members that volunteers who are not members of the RACs cannot be reimbursed by BLM for their travel.

Public Comment

Don Hicks introduced Rex Cleary and James Linebaugh representing the Nevada Section for the Society for Range Management who presented the Section Award for 2005, Nevada Rangeland Manager of the Year award to Ernie Payne. Cleary and Linebaugh told the group that Ernie is a 1997 graduate of Cal Poly and has been working for the Flying M Cattle Company since 1985. Rangelands have gotten a lot better due to Ernie. He works well with all the folks involved in rangeland management. His ranch is over the line into California and involved in three counties. The Bodie historical site is right in the middle of it. The organization also honored Ernie's wife Robin, who "does nearly everything" and speaks for range and wildlife at the sage-grouse

meetings. In accepting the award, Payne said it was a surprise and he “surely did appreciate it.” The Society annual meeting will be held in Sparks February 11-16, 2007.

Doran Sanchez adjourned the meeting for the day at 4:45 p.m.

Friday, November 3

The joint RACs reconvened at 11:35 a.m.

Newly elected Chair John Hiatt told the members that the **Mojave Southern Great Basin RAC** will meet on the following dates in 2007.

January 11-12 – Las Vegas Field Office

- Conservation transfer area
- SNPLMA Round 7
- Review final Ely RMP EIS
- Energy corridor

March 8-9 – Las Vegas

- Energy – wind/solar and power line proposals
- Fire restoration
- Partnerships
- OHV use problems
- Information on restoration of the Mojave Desert

June 14-15 – Ely

- Meadow Valley Wash watershed management
- Eastern Nevada Landscape Conservation Plan
- Southern Nevada Water Authority pipeline

August 16-17 – Tonopah

- Land ownership
- ~~Ryalite~~ **Rhyolite**
- OHV use – unintended consequences of the change from open to closed routes
- Resource management plans – possibility of changes as things become out of date
- Disposals in Clark County – water available?
- Update of fire season
- Nye County Lands Bill

Laura Crane reporting for re-elected Chair John Gebhardt told the members that the **Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC** would meet on the following dates

February 7-8 – Carson City Field Office (NOTE: meeting later rescheduled to April 4-5.)

- Final draft of Pine Nut Amendment
- Alpine County RMP Amendment

- Finalize Wild Horse and Burro Guidelines
- Allotments & fire rehab

July 11-12

- Winnemucca RMP
- Black Rock wilderness planning
- Aqua Trac
- Rochester Mine EIS
- Echo Canyon Plan

Chair Vince Garcia told the members that the **Northeastern Great Basin RAC** would meet at the following times.

January 18 – Battle Mountain

- Fire grazing closures
- Set agendas for next meetings

March 15 – Ely

May – Elko

July – Eureka Mine tour

Overall agenda topics

- Travel management
- Range monitoring – revised handbook
- Update with mining companies
- Fire restoration – assist BLM with pre-suppression planning, setting priorities for fire suppression
- Get ranchers to obtain Red Cards and get involved in suppression
- Grazing permit renewal process
- Providing recommendations on consistent permitting process, education for RAC members on this issue
- Fire closure field trip, criteria for closures re: grazing
- Energy permitting process for alternative energy
- ROWs, counties
- RAC education in NEPA process
- Would like to form an energy subgroup

Jim Eidel asked if a RAC member is interested in what another RAC is doing may they participate. Garcia answered yes.

Wenker commented that the Northeastern RAC is dealing with quite a few topics that cross-cut the state. It would be wise to consult council-to-council.

Wenker continued that the RACs should take a hard look at the REA nominations and ~~took~~ **take** a close look at the Act. Sheri Eckland Brown volunteered to round out the Rec RAC as

representative for elected officials. One individual was outside of the appointed RACs, Sharlet Berentsen nominated by Jerry Hepworth. Wenker stated that Berentsen could represent state tourism as well as sustainable development.

Jim Eidel commented that the areas mentioned in REA did not mention wildlife. Wenker answered that wildlife is involved. People can put on different hats. For instance outfitter/guides are ~~not~~ mentioned but they could be represented by the other members of the group.

Laura Crane commented that if it was appropriate maybe there would be time at next year's Tri-RAC meeting to discuss the cross-cutting issues and how the RACs could work together on them.

Wenker thanked everyone for attending. He commented that the meeting started Wednesday evening with our Secretary of the Interior stopping to say hello. It was a surprise. He was looking for an opportunity to come to our area. It was a good opportunity to meet him. There are enough issues going on in the state that he will be back.

Wenker told the RAC each of your bios reflects each of your expertise in the subjects for which the Secretary has appointed you to the RACs. I thank you very much. This has been a productive two days.

Doran Sanchez extended special thanks to all the RAC coordinators.

There being no further business Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Date Approved:

Approved by:

Minutes provided by Nancy Thompson, Communications, BLM Nevada State Office

Attachments:

1. Draft Vegetation Treatment Prioritization Criteria
2. SNPLMA Revenue Collections through September 30, 2006
3. Understanding the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act
4. Nevada Resource Advisory Councils FY 2006 Accomplishments and Successes
5. BLM Nevada Fire and Aviation brochure
6. Nevada map outlining Recreation Subcommittee RAC boundaries
7. BLM Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation – BLM 2005
8. Standards and Guidelines for Nevada's Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area – August 2006